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Foreword

The *From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria* book series has a long tradition and its publishing reflects numerous changes taking place over the years. The first four volumes were published by Ośrodek Studiów Brytyjskich UW (2009–2014), the fifth by Instytut Anglistyki UW Pracownia „Ośrodek Studiów Brytyjskich” (2016), while the sixth and seventh by Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (2018 and 2021). What connected them were not only the *From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria* conferences (2007–2019), but first and foremost the editors: Grażyna Bystydzieńska and Emma Harris. We fully appreciate and strongly applaud their work and, in taking up the baton passed down by our Founding Mothers, hope to do justice to their editorial heritage in a way that they, too, will come to appreciate.

This volume is the eighth, but also, in a few ways, the first. It is the first available in Open Access and the first prepared by us as a research group. Starting in 2007, the *From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria* forum united members of the Department of British Culture and Department of British Literature researching eighteenth- and/or nineteenth-century studies and their rewritings. Between 2022 and now, we grew into a team integrating seasoned scholars and postgraduate students from various universities. Since our publishing cycle was interrupted by the pandemic, it is the first book after a longer break. To accentuate this challenging period, we invited contributions relating to *Body and Mind*, which marks a turn towards volumes defined not only chronologically, but also thematically.

In the previous volume in this series, the editors – Grażyna Bystydzieńska and Emma Harris – noted that

in a post-pandemic landscape, a different style of academic attitude towards the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries will perhaps inevitably take shape, entailing possible new perspectives on disciplinarity and divisions between fields of study, between aesthetics and politics, or between history and the present (“From the Editors” 9)

and all it takes to see to what extent they were right is to read the following pages.

There are, however, certain things that have not changed. The texts included in this volume are thought-provoking and engaging and, just like the ones from the first collection in our series, create “a mosaic of interrelated analyses of aspects of 18th and 19th century literature and culture in Britain” (front flap). I am grateful to the new editors – Dorota Babilas, Małgorzata Łuczyńska-Hołodys, and Magdalena Pypec – for their individual and collaborative work. All of us were involved with the series since volume one as contributors and, speaking both for myself and the others, we want it to keep growing. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dorota Traczewska for keeping an eye on the technical side of the publishing process. I hope you will enjoy the outcome.

Works Cited

- Bystydzieńska, Grażyna and Emma Harris. *From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria: Readings in 18th and 19th Century British Literature and Culture*, edited by Grażyna Bystydzieńska and Emma Harris, Ośrodek Studiów Brytyjskich UW, 2009.
- Bystydzieńska, Grażyna and Emma Harris. “From the Editors.” *From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria: Readings in 18th and 19th Century British Literature and Culture*, vol. 7, edited by Grażyna Bystydzieńska and Emma Harris, WUW, 2021, pp. 7–9.